

## APPLE BLOSSOMS

By EARL READ SILVERS.

The scent of apple blossoms pervaded the orchard, bringing to Anna with poignant memories of a late afternoon three years ago when, in that very orchard, Edgar Gilliam had said his last good-by.

She and Edgar had grown up together. Living on adjacent farms, it had only been natural that Edgar should drop over on an evening to sit on the broad porch of the Smith residence.

The Gilliam farm was one of the most prosperous in that section of the state; the Gilliams themselves were all that could be desired socially, and Edgar, as the only son and heir, was much sought after by the girls of the village. He was a tall, upstanding young man, with light, curly hair which invited stray fingers, and blue eyes which looked at one with a fearless frankness which was almost disconcerting.

But there had been a deep hurt in those eyes when he had said good-by to Anna. The day had started off much as other days, but at noon Ned Howell had phoned over from the village and had asked Anna if she would go auto riding with him that afternoon. And Anna, rather flattered by the invitation, had accepted. Ned had been East to college for three years and was spending his first vacation in his home town.

Anna had first met him after prayer-meeting. He had come in the car evidently in search of amusement, and had asked if he might see her home. Edgar, she knew, was waiting at the door, as he had done for the past two years, but she had nodded a happy acceptance to Ned's invitation, and passed Edgar with the barest smile.

Ned had taken her home in the car, but they hadn't gone directly to her home.

"We'll take a little spin," he had said. "It's much too early to go home yet."

And so they had rolled around the country roads while Ned told her of the life at college, of dances, football games and week-end parties.

"Perhaps you might be able to come East to one of the dances," he had remarked just before he left her. "I would be pleased to have you come, you know."

She had been flattered, immensely flattered, at the implied invitation, and when he suggested that they take another ride the next evening, she had readily consented. In the afternoon she had gone to the orchard to think about it all. And then Edgar had come. He stood before her as she sat on the bench.

"What time did you get in last night?" he had asked.

"Before twelve," she answered.

"Why?"

"Were you out riding with Ned Howell all that time?"

"Yes."

"Don't you know," he said, calmly, "that Ned has changed a lot since he went away?"

"Of course, he has; he's a college man now, and he talks of different things, and acts more like an Easterner."

"I didn't mean that."

"What did you mean?"

"I meant that he fell in with the wrong kind of men at college; that he's used to girls who drink cocktails and stay out all hours of the night."

Anna had idly plucked an apple blossom which hung near.

"I'm sorry you don't like him," she had answered. "I'm going riding with him again tonight."

"What?" Edgar's face had grown suddenly white.

"And he's asked me to go to a college dance this winter, and I'm going," Anna had continued.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I don't want you to have anything to do with Ned. But what I want doesn't make any difference, but I'm going to tell you something, just the same. I'm not much at saying things, but ever since I was a little kid, I've thought all the world of you. And I had hoped that in another year, maybe you would promise to marry me, and—and that we could live on my place, and be together all the time."

She had looked at him wonderingly.

"Why, Edgar," she said finally. "I never cared for you like that."

He had searched her eyes for a brief moment, and then dropped his head.

"No," he had said softly, "I don't think that you do."

That was three years ago. Ned Howell had not come to take her auto riding; instead, he had gone away to visit a friend without so much as a word to her. And Edgar had left two days later for California to take charge of a farm his father had bought.

Suddenly a footstep sounded nearby and a figure stood before her.

"Anna!" someone said.

She caught her breath sharply, hardly daring to look up. But when she finally she gained the courage, Edgar, slightly older, but with the same frank blue eyes, smiled happily at her and said out his arms.

"I still care as I did when I was a little kid," he said softly.

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## A Tightwad.

He—Here I've spent four years courting you, and you throw me over for another fellow.

She—Well, he spent less time and more money, that's why.

## STONE MARKS HISTORIC SPOT

Farthest Point North Reached by Confederate Troops in Civil War is on Ohio Farm.

A monument was erected several years ago on the Crubaugh farm in Columbiana county, Ohio, which marks the farthest northern point reached by the Confederate forces during the Civil war. It also marks the spot where Gen. John H. Morgan, the famous Southern leader, surrendered. For many years an old locust tree marked the place of surrender, but the tree died a few years ago, and after it had been cut down the stump was taken to East Liverpool, O., for safekeeping in the public library.

It was the idea of the late W. L. Thompson, the song writer, who lived near the scene of the fight, to erect a monument to mark the spot. He had a fund well started, when he suddenly died, but his friends took up the work and carried it through. A huge granite boulder was put in place and upon this is a bronze tablet bearing the inscription: "This stone marks the spot where the Confederate raider, Gen. John H. Morgan, surrendered his command to Maj. George W. Rue, July 26, 1863, and is the farthest point north ever reached by any body of Confederate troops during the Civil war."

## FLOWER LORE OF INTEREST

Signs That Are Implicitly Believed In by Many—Novel Uses for Catnip and Pennyroyal.

To burn faded flowers is a sure sign of coming sorrow. To plant a flower hedge is to bring good luck. If a person wears flowers with the stems upward it is a sign that he or she is in love and does not know it. To have flowers wilt quickly in the hands denotes ill health.

If a person smells flowers gathered from a cemetery he will lose the sense of smell. It is considered unlucky to gather flowers out of season, as before and after the season they are said to belong to the fairies.

The first wild flowers which are gathered by a young woman in the spring are supposed to give the initials of her future husband. Spearmint is believed by some to prevent illness when worn about the wrist.

If catnip is held in the hand until heated and then put into the hand of another, superstition says that it will so control that person that he or she cannot leave you as long as the catnip is retained in the hand.

Pennyroyal is said to make a quarrelsome husband and wife stop bickering if it is given to them by some friend.

## WAR ON MOSQUITOES.

In Macedonia, the great enemy, the Boche, nor the Bulgar; it is the mosquito, carrier of the dread disease known as "Paludism."

The undersecretary of the department of public health, by agreement with General Sarrail, commander in chief of the Eastern army, and with the co-operation of the Pasteur institute, has undertaken a systematic fight against it. A special auxiliary corps, composed of 20 physicians, 500 men, 30 sergeants, 40 corporals, and three administrative officers, is engaged in destroying the larvae of the mosquito and killing off the insects.

## ITS MISSION.

"Are you going to earth?" asked the Star of the Comet.

"Yes," replied the Comet, "and when I get there I will a tail unfold."

## NOT TO BE READ.

Miss Huggins—My father is very good at reading faces.

Mr. Kissam—Then I had better not print any kisses on yours!

## A CORRECTION.

"Well, I must say you've got your nerve with you!"

"You're mistaken, sir. The dentist just took it."

## PARADOXICAL TREATMENT.

"That man ought to be let down easy."

"Why?"

"Because he's so hard up."

## PROBLEM.

"I don't think our warships ought to be too daring."

"Yet we want to put them on a wreckless basis."

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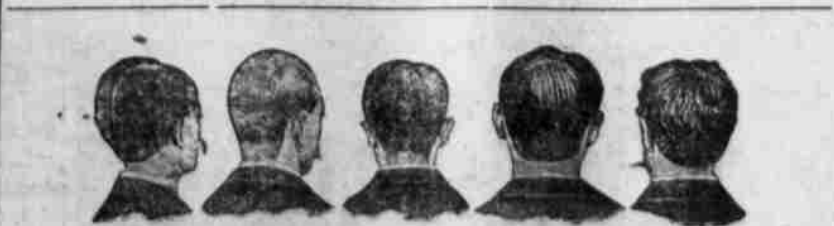
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**Preserving Worn Surfaces.**  
There are sometimes places on the exterior of a house where the paint gets worn off and which cannot be retouched without making a "botch job" of it owing to the difficulty of mixing the new paint to match the adjoining color which has faded. To preserve the wood in such spots until the house can be repainted, apply two coats of linseed oil with a rag. This will improve the appearance also. — Popular Science Monthly.

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**LIFE DIARY OF MRS. WEAVER**

Her Experience Was a Very Sad One.  
NEVER AGAIN FOR MARTHA.

She Brings Shame and Ridicule Upon Herself—Husband a Willing Accomplice—They Both Were Taught a Lesson That Will Last Them Their Entire Lifetime.

[Copyrighted, 1914, by Thomas J. Sullivan.]  
Do not judge from mere appearances, for the light laughter that bubbles on the lip often mingles over the depth of sadness, and the serious look may be the sober veil that covers a divine peace and joy. The bosom may ache beneath diamond brooches, and many a blithe heart dances under coarse wool.

Assuming the above to be true, we will proceed to tear a page from the life diary of Mrs. Weaver and present it to our readers.

**That New Suit.**  
"What am I going to do about that new suit I must have?" said Martha Weaver to her husband as he came in from work one evening.

"Why is there any question about that? Go to Hopkins & Co. and get what you need. If you need a suit get it," answered her husband.

"I have looked there," replied Martha, "but they haven't anything that I want. I just need a simple suit, but I want good material, and it must be neatly and well made, one that I could use for almost any occasion. I would prefer a ready made suit, but those that Hopkins & Co. have appear to be made of poor, flimsy material, and they are decked out with such cheap, flashy, dowdy trimming that I just cannot bear to wear them," replied Martha.

**The False Step.**  
"Well, what do you want to do—run into the city and get you a suit?" asked John.

"No. That does not suit me either, for when I have to pay my fare, my hotel bill and other incidental expenses it makes the cost too high and also takes more time than I can spare for the purchase of one suit," said Martha. "Could you not order one? Didn't I see some mail order catalogues around here awhile ago?" asked the interested

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**Scum Milk.**  
Little Raymond, brought up in a city, had never seen real milk till he moved to a country town. He did not know that it "creams and mingles like a standing pool." He brought in the milk bottle from the front doorstep the first morning, and said disgustedly: "Ma, that milk is no good at all—there's scum on it!"

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